

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EA-11 DRC-01 /165 W

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2774

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0558

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS AO

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR GENERAL BREAKS SILENCE

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY. GOVGEN SILVERIO MARQUES BROKE SILENCE MAINTAINED SINCE ARRIVAL OVER FOUR WEEKS AGO TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN HIS APPARENT INACTIVITY, ESPECIALLY DURING PAST FEW DAYS. ATTEMPT FAILED. PRESS CONFERENCE WAS DIS-ASTER. DEMANDS FOR HIS REMOVAL EXPECTED TO MOUNT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LONG, CONVOLUTED LANGUAGE PROBABLY UNINTELLIGIBLE BY MOST BLACKS AND WORKING CLASS WHITES, GOVGEN SOUGHT TO EXCUSE HIS APPARENT INACTIVITY SINCE ARRIVAL OVER FOUR WEEKS AGO AND PARTICULARLY HIS SILENCE DURING LAST WEEKS CHAOS. STATEMENT PRECEDING QUESTION PERIOD WAS DEFENSIVE, FULL OF LEGALISTIC ARGUMENTATION, AND EMBARRASSING TO LISTEN TO. IT SEEMED EVIDENT HIS RAMBLINGS WERE INWARDLY DIRECTED, SINCE IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE WHO ELSE
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THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTENDED FOR.

3. INTER ALIA GOVGEN LAUNCHED INTO OBSCURE DEFINITION OF COLONIALISM AND DECOLONIZATION, WHICH SEEMED COMPLETELY ALIEN TO PRACTICAL MATTERS DEMANDING RESOLUTION AT ONCE. HE INSISTED HE REALLY HAD BEEN BUSY DEEP INSIDE PALACE, TRYING TO COMPLETE CABINET RANKS, JOB WHICH HAD NOW BECOME MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE "SURPRISING" OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE LAST WEEK. HE BLAMED VIOLENCE ON "HATEFUL ENEMIES."

4. GOVGEN SEEMED BOTH TO COMPLAIN AND DEFEND HIMSELF BY NOTING THAT SINCE PORTUGUESE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL COSTA GOMES PASSED THROUGH LUANDA FOLLOWING APRIL 25 COUP IN LISBON AND REMOVED ALL NON-MILITARY SECURITY FORCES FROM GOVGEN COMMAND, MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER WAS CINC'S RESPONSIBILITY, NOT HIS AT ALL. HE ALSO PROMISED ELECTIONS "SOON," AND ANTICIPATED POSSIBLE CRITICISM THAT HE HAD NOT "SANITIZED" CIVIL SERVICE BY SAYING ANGOLA WAS DIFFERENT FROM REST OF PORTUGUESE AFRICA AND HE INTENDED TO KEEP EXISTING STRUCTURES (INCLUDING DISTRICT GOVERNORS) IN INTERIOR UNTIL HE COULD GET BETTER ORGANIZED HIMSELF.

5. IN QUESTION PERIOD HE WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE. EXAMPLES FOLLOW:

A. QUESTION: WAS VIOLENCE WORK OF OUTSIDERS? ANSWER: MAYBE CINC WOULD KNOW. GOVGEN HAD HEARD THERE MIGHT BE SOME MAOIST INFILTRATORS HERE, BUT HAD NOT HAD TIME TO CHECK IT OUT.

B. QUESTION: WOULD HE COMMENT ON "ANGOLAN EMBASSY" (BOAVIDA ET AL) CURRENTLY MEETING WITH SPINOLA IN LISBON? ANSWER: HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THEM. HE DOUBTED THEY WERE "REPRESENTATIVE" OF ANYONE IN LUANDA.

C. QUESTION: DID HE KNOW AN INVESTIGATIVE TEAM WAS ARRIVING? ANSWER: YES. QUESTION: DID HE KNOW WHEN? ANSWER: "I HAVE NO IDEA." (COMMENT: DELEGATION PRACTICALLY HAD ONE FOOT ON THE GROUND.)

D. QUESTION: WAS IT TRUE HE REFUSED TO SEE AFRICAN DELEGATION JULY 12? ANSWER: "THAT IS A LIE." (GOVGEN THEN WENT ON WITH INTERMINABLE EXPLANATION THAT HE HAD A REGULARLY SCHEDULED CABINET MEETING AT 9 A.M., AND IN VIEW OF EVENTS HAD ARRANGED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MEET WITH CINC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER, AT NOON. VISITORS HAD SOUGHT TO INTERRUPT HIS FIRST MEETING. HE HAD BEEN BUSY, ETC. ETC. ETC., SUGGESTED AN APPOINTMENT LATER, ETC.)

E. QUESTION: WILL CABINDA BE ALLOWED SEPARATE INDEPENDENCE? ANSWER: THAT WILL BE UP TO CABINDANS WITH ANGOLANS AND PORTUGUESE TO DECIDE, BY REFERENDUM, AFTER CABINDANS HAVE BEEN GIVEN CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED. (COMMENT: THIS

ANSWER WILL FURTHER CONFOUND THOSE WHO THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE
SEPARATE REFERENDA, AT LEAST IN PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA.)

6. COMMENT: A VERY SAD EXHIBITION, WHICH ILLUSTRATED NEED TO
REPLACE GOVGEN WITH SOMEONE ENPOWERED TO TAKE CONTROL HERE. THIS
IS NOW ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IF LISBON ITSELF IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE
LEADERSHIP. NEXT MOVE SEEMS TO BE UP TO INVESTIGATORS WHO HAVE
ARRIVED.
BRIGGS

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